

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

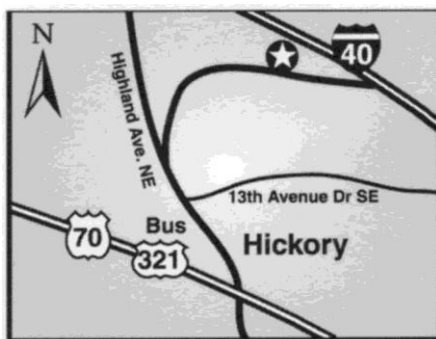
ISSUE #14

May 2007

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Charlotte meetings attracted fewer people than had been hoped (six), but one was a reporter covering the meeting for *Coin World*. If anyone sees, or has seen, mention of CARTS in *Coin World* please let your editor know.

But the BIG happening is the May meeting in Hickory! And it's just a few days away. The meeting is May 19. We will begin at 9:00 am, as usual, and break up for lunch about 1:00 pm. We are meeting in the "Metro Room" of the Hickory Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott. The Metro Room is located at the rear wall of the hotel lobby and the hotel can be seen from I-40 at exit 125 and is beside the J&S Cafeteria. A map provided by the hotel is shown below.



But the following directions seem clearer than the map. To reach the hotel from I-40 West, take exit 125 (Lenoir Rhyne Blvd.), turn left on Lenoir Rhyne Blvd., then at the first stop light turn left on 13th Avenue Drive, SE. The Fairfield Inn & Suites is on the right. From I-40 East, take exit 125, turn right on Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. and then proceed as above.

If you've never attended a CARTS meeting, make this one your first. There are always TOKENS, TOKENS, TOKENS, not to mention token (tall?) tales. And to the regulars and semi-regulars, I can't wait to see you!

REMEMBER HICKORY MAY 19

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, spring is here and I hope the pollen hasn't affected your token-hunting. I haven't suffered too much this year, thank goodness. Perhaps it was because all those tokens I was adding to my collection took my mind off of any allergy symptoms I was having!

Our special March 2007 CARTS meeting at the ANA Convention in Charlotte went well. Don Bailey presented a great slide show on Dr. Pepper tokens and we had some extra time for fellow collectors to visit with each other. We even had a member of the press in attendance, as a reporter from *Coin World* covered our meeting.

Whether or not you were able to make the special March meeting, I hope you can find the time to make our regular spring meeting. By the time you receive this newsletter, the meeting will be nigh. The meeting has been scheduled for May 19th in the Hickory, NC area. See elsewhere in this issue for the exact times and locations. I hope to see everyone there.

Regards,

Tony Chibbaro, President, CARTS

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know! **Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

UNION

SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

William M. Graham
106 Hidden Hill Road • Union, SC 29379-9105
864-427-9560 WMG@NUVOX.NET

THE CHAMPION COMPRESS AND WAREHOUSE TOKENS: THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Lamar Bland

Robert King, in his forthcoming book on North Carolina tokens, describes the Champion Compress and Warehouse tokens of Wilmington, North Carolina, as follows:

CHAMPION COMPRESS & WAREHOUSE CO.
/ ONE / BALE (STAR) // DELIVERY / (ORN) /
GANG - SC (10) AL 31 (HOLED AT TOP)
SCARCE

CHAMPION COMPRESS & WAREHOUSE CO.
/ ONE / BALE / (STAR) // RECEIVING / (ORN) /
GANG - RD AL 29 (HOLED AT TOP) SCARCE

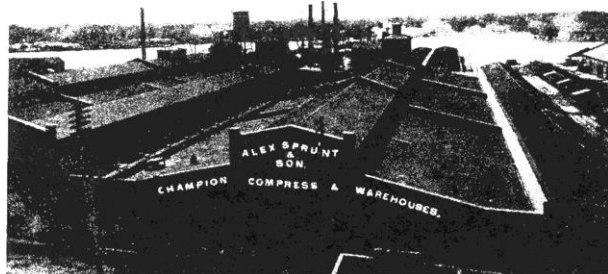
Below is a photograph of the token used by the
“receiving gang.”



Valuable information about the business which issued these tokens is contained in J.R. Killick's article, "The Transformation of Cotton Marketing in the Late Nineteenth Century: Alexander Sprunt and Son of Wilmington, N.C.," published in Harvard University's Business History Review in 1981. Killick reports that the Champion Press Company first appeared in Wilmington in 1879. Its business was to receive loosely baled cotton from country gins, and compress it into smaller bales suitable for more efficient shipment by rail or boat to mills – the “receiving” and “delivery” process referred to in the tokens above. Over the next 20-30 years, Alexander Sprunt and his heirs (James and William) successfully developed their business into “probably the largest cotton exporting house in the United States” (p. 145). The height of their success occurred prior to World

War I, though they continued in declining operation through the Depression era into the 1950's.

The following photographs show the expanse of the Sprunt Champion operation around the turn of the century. The first photo establishes the Sprunt identity with Champion Compress, an identity which the tokens alone do not reveal.



Reprinted by permission of the *Business History Review*. p. 151 from "The Transformation of Cotton Marketing in the Late Nineteenth Century: Alexander Sprunt and Son of Wilmington, N.C., 1884-1956" by J.R. Killick. Copyright 1981 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College; all rights reserved.

The second photograph, taken from a different angle, shows the large outside yard where baled cotton has been assembled. Are these the loose bales assembled by the "receiving gang" awaiting process by the compress? Or the already compressed bales assembled by the "delivery gang" for export?



Photo Courtesy of New Hanover Public Library

In a special issue on November 19 of 2006, *The Raleigh News and Observer* described the Wilmington race riot of 1898, the most important historical event occurring during the Sprunts' business ascent. In the Reconstruction era, Wilmington had become a desirable location for African-Americans seeking to live out the

American Dream promised by emancipation. It had a black majority population composed of professionals, skilled tradesmen, craftsmen, and a large labor force. All this was to come to an end in 1898, when diverse white groups such as The Red Shirts, The Secret Nine, The White Government Union, and The Committee of Twenty-Five, together instituted a violent coup to banish all black leaders and position only white men with power in the city. The event signaled the beginning of America's long Jim Crow era of racial segregation.

Despite this turbulence, the Sprunts maintained the enormous success of their operation. One source provides a clue for how that might have been possible: Philip Gerard's historical novel, *Cape Fear Rising* (1994). While Gerard focuses primarily on the prominent white men who led the coup — Hugh MacRae, George Rountree, William Rand Kenan, and Alfred Moore Waddell — he peripherally refers to Sprunt as MacRae's chief competitor in the cotton compress business. On the day of the riot, James Sprunt is characterized as one of the few white men advocating the restoration of peace and order. Subsequently, when thousands of blacks were fleeing Wilmington, Sprunt (unlike MacRae at his Wilmington Cotton Mill operation) kept many of his black laborers with fair, equitable treatment.

Through his research of business records for Wilmington, Robert King can confirm a listing for Champion Compress and Warehouse Company from 1880-1893, followed by a disappearance from records until 1900-1911. A second absence occurs until 1934-5. Contrary to the implications of this data, Killick's article indicates that the Sprunts' business operated for a generation with increasing annual profit, with the exception of diminished returns in years 1889-90, 1901-03, and 1911-14. Large profit declines start in 1923.

Less is known about the tokens than about the business owners who issued them. What was their exact function in the compressing process? How were they attached? There must have been thousands of them in use during the highly successful years, often handled by African-Americans as the bales made their passage through Wilmington.

The tokens are now scarce, handsome artifacts of the diminished textile culture of the American south.

SOURCES:

Philip Gerard, *Cape Fear Rising*, Winston-Salem: John Blair Publishing, 1994.

J.R. Killick, "The Transformation of Cotton Marketing in the Late Nineteenth Century: Alexander Sprunt and Son of Wilmington, N.C., 1884-1956," *Business History Review*, Vol. 55, No. 2, Summer, 1981, pp. 143-69.

Robert King, Token information supplied by email.

New Hanover Public Library, Wilmington, N.C.

"The Ghosts of 1898—Wilmington's Race Riot and the Rise of White Supremacy," Raleigh: *The News and Observer*, November 17, 2006

[King's note—when listed]

Listed from 1880 through 1893. There isn't a listing from 1894 through 1899. Listed again from 1900 through 1911, then no listing appears until 1934 and 1935.

This business was a cotton warehouse and cotton compressor owned by James and William H. Sprunt. It was located on Nutt Street at the corner of Red Cross. Alexander Sprunt and Son managed the business. Alexander Sprunt and Son owned a naval stores business in addition to managing the warehouse.

The naval stores were listed in years that the warehouse was apparently not in business. The warehouse may have operated as a contract cotton storage and compress. That would explain the long periods of downtime.

THE OLDEST KNOWN TOKEN FROM NORTH CAROLINA?

Bob King

Since the late 1990s I have been searching for information on Mount Gallant Fishery of Winton, NC. Mount Gallant is located on the north side of the Roanoke River in Northampton County.

Northampton is on the west side of Hertford County. Winton is located on the south side of the Chowan River in Hertford County. Both the Chowan and the Roanoke Rivers flow into the Albemarle Sound. I had assumed that the Mount Gallant Fishery Tokens were from the early 1900s but after no luck finding a listing in that time frame I was shot gunning to find a listing when I "Googled" Mount Gallant Fishery and got one hit; a story written by a nice lady that had told of a man named John Vann, Sr. Mr. Vann was entertaining a gentleman in his home and the visitor offered to trade the Mount Gallant Fishery for a young slave girl that was serving the table. The offer was declined and unfortunately the visitor's name wasn't given. I contacted the author of the story but she couldn't shed any more light on the visitor or the fishery. Since a slave was involved and Mr. Vann died November 11, 1850 one can safely assume that the fishery was in business before 1850 but that doesn't insure the tokens were used prior to 1850. I haven't found a start-up date or end date for the fishery so a mystery still remains. Still, it seems to be possible that these tokens could be the oldest known from North Carolina.



MT. GALLANT / FISHERY / WINTON, N.C. //
GOOD FOR / ONE / BUCKET / (ORNAMENT)
OCT BR 24



MT. GALLANT / FISHERY / WINTON, N.C. //
GOOD FOR / ONE / TUB
OCT BR 20

NC NEW FINDS

Bob King



GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN / TRADE / GARNER & BROWN // (BLANK)
(SOMEONE CUT THE LETTERS "F A S" IN THE STYLE OF A LOVE TOKEN-NOT AS MADE)
RD BR 24

Note: Listed in 1914 and 1915 as a general store.



PIEDMONT PLANTATION CO. / (ORNAMENT) / (DIAMOND) //

GOOD FOR / 50¢ / COMPANY STORE
RD BR 28

Note: The Piedmont Plantation Company and Piedmont Plantation Company Store are listed in 1912.

While checking the March Issue of SETS News for the latest maverick list, I saw "Piedmont Plantation" and my excitement meter went off the scale. I had recently seen a plantation listing with that name in my NC Reference Material. After about 2 hours of searching without success I went to bed with intention of starting again the next morning. After a night of poor sleep due to mind clutter concerning where to search for the Piedmont Plantation, I got up very early and went back to work without success. I went to the breakfast table, sat down and it hit me. I got up immediately and went to my 1914 Dun and there it was in Eagle Springs. I had been looking in Eagle Springs the previous week for a maverick I found in IKO TAMS that also found a home in Eagle Springs.

I think the most interesting part of this story is that a week previous Eagle Springs was unknown to me and without a listing; and in a week's time not only was it known but two previously unattributed mavericks reside there. I haven't researched the plantation but I will go to Moore County next week and see what can be found.

NEW FINDS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Tony Chibbaro

It's funny how the token gods can toy with the emotions of us mere mortals. I've been collecting South Carolina tokens now for close to 25 years, and until half a year ago my collection was devoid of any tokens from Simpsonville. I knew of at least three tokens from this locality, but a specimen had so far eluded me. Yet in the past six months, I've been blessed with three different unlisted tokens from the Greenville County town.



The first one came from eBay and was issued by the Woodside Cotton Mills Company. It is made of aluminum and measures 25mm in diameter. Note the blank reverse; this token was most probably a "spooling check" or some other type of production token.

The first cotton mill to operate in town was named Simpsonville Cotton Mill and it opened circa 1909. Sometime around 1914 the mill was purchased by the Woodside Cotton Mills Company of Greenville, who continued to operate it for many years. Woodside later built two state-of-the-art mills in Simpsonville in the 1960s, called the Furman and Beattie Plants, which I believe still operate today.



The second one came in February at the Spartanburg coin show. I purchased an accumulation of South Carolina tokens from a coin dealer and among them was a 10¢ token from the Benson Grocery Company of Simpsonville. I had known of two 25¢ specimens from this store, having cataloged them for the 1990 edition of the South Carolina token book. This is the first 10¢ denomination of which I am aware. It is brass and measures 23.5mm.

The company is listed in the mercantile directories as a retail grocer for the years 1915 and 1916. In 1917, and through 1922, the name is shown as T.L. Benson and Company and the type of business is listed as dry goods, shoes, and furnishings.



The third Simpsonville token came my way in March courtesy of CARTS treasurer Bob King. The 26mm octagonal aluminum token was issued by the Simpsonville Drug Company which was operated by A.B. Cannon. The company was first listed in 1909, with intermittent listings until 1916, thereafter appearing every year through the 1950s. The token appears to have been issued in the teens or early twenties.

TWO NEW COLLECTING GENRES - CHALLENGE COINS AND GEOCACHING COINS

Tony Chibbaro

If you hang out on eBay as much as I do, you have probably noticed two new types of exonomia being offered regularly on the popular auction site. These two types of medals, although usually mislabeled as "coins," are military challenge coins and geocaching coins, and they pop up occasionally during my searches for South Carolina tokens. Although they are issued for two very divergent purposes, they are usually similar in

size and appearance, primarily due to the fact that they are often made by the same die-sinking firms. I'll go into a little history of each type and will show representative examples of both in the following paragraphs.

Having proliferated in the last 10 to 12 years, military challenge coins have been around slightly longer than their geocaching brethren, although several internet sites feature a "story" which traces their origin back to World War I. The slightly believable story goes like this: A wealthy World War I flight leader presented all the pilots in his squadron with medallions that featured the unit's emblem. One pilot, who had placed his medallion in a pouch tied around his neck, was shot down behind the German lines. He was captured and all his belongings were confiscated except the medallion. He later escaped and found his way back to the French lines, only to be accused of being a German spy. He was to be executed but at the last minute he produced his medallion and was spared when one of the French soldiers recognized the unit's insignia. It sounds a little farfetched to me, but this story is repeated on several internet sites as the origin of challenge coins.

The first modern, specially struck challenge coin was issued in 1969 by Col. Verne Greene of the U.S. Army's 10th Special Forces. The piece featured the unit's crest and motto as well as a blank area for the recipient to have his name engraved. Since the mid-1980s, the number of challenge coins has increased greatly, with hundreds of different coins being produced by units and squadrons from all branches of the military.

According to tradition, a challenge coin is used in the following way. A coin challenge is initiated by holding one's coin in the air and announcing a "coin check." Other soldiers or sailors in the bar must answer the challenge with their own coin or must buy a drink for the challenger. If all those challenged produce their coins, then the challenger must buy a round for all those that were challenged. In an attempt to de-link challenge coins from alcohol consumption, many commanding officers have begun issuing "award coins" in the place of challenge coins. These are presented in an effort to recognize the achievements of individual personnel or a

particular unit. There are hundreds of different coins in existence and they can be quite colorful, with multicolored enameling often encountered on both sides of the coin. For more information see the article written on the subject by Bill Myers in the April 2007 issue of *The Numismatist*.



Pictured above are two challenge coins that were issued by squadrons stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, SC. The 20th Communications Squadron coin is made of pewter, while the other one is brass. Both are 38 mm in diameter and have colored enameling on portions of both obverse and reverse, which really adds to the eye appeal. The black and white photos do not do these pieces justice; they really need to be viewed in color to get the full effect of the enameling.

Although similar in size and design, geocaching coins are more recent and are issued for an entirely different audience, those who own a handheld global positioning (GPS) device and wish to participate in an exciting treasure-hunt game called "geocaching." Geocaching was actually invented in May of 2000 when GPS enthusiast Dave Ulmer placed a black bucket in the woods near Beaver Creek, Oregon. In the bucket he placed various prizes including videos, books, software, and a slingshot. He then posted the GPS coordinates of the bucket on the internet and invited other GPS owners to find his stash. The only rule was for the finder to "take some stuff and leave some stuff."

Other hobbyists followed his lead, hiding caches of their own, and posting the coordinates on the web. It was not long before there were websites dedicated to the locations of hundreds of caches hidden around the country.

Geocaching coins, sometimes called geocoins for short, were developed to be used as prizes placed in the geocaches. Often manufactured by the same diesinkers as the military challenge coins, they are similar in size and feel. Some geocoins are marked with serial numbers by which they can be tracked on special websites as they travel from geocache to geocache.



Reproduced above are two geocaching coins featuring South Carolina themes. Both are pewter, with colored enameling. The larger of the two was issued by the Upstate South Carolina Geocaching Association (USCGA) and pictures a hobbyist holding a GPS device in his hand. The second coin is one of a series issued to commemorate the Civil War. Depicted on its obverse is the Bombardment of Fort Sumter, which occurred in April of 1861. Both have individual serial numbers which can be used to track the coins online. For more information visit www.geocaching.com.

REMEMBER HICKORY MAY 19

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

PEANUT TOKENS: I will pay top dollar for tokens I need from National Spanish Peanut Co, Columbian Peanut Company, Franklin Peanut Company, Tom's, and others. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729 or ELADON@BRINET.COM.

CHARLESTON DOG LICENSE TAGS: Charleston issued early, very early, the first year was 1850. c. c./1850/600 rectangle and made of brass. There was a small hole at each corner, rather crude and I would assume that most existing tags have been dug. I would be most interested in acquiring one or more of these tags, will buy or trade. Bill Bone, 928 S.R. 2206, Clinton, KY 42031, 270 653-6060 tagman2@earthlink.net

WANT MAVERICKS, SCRIP BOOKS AND TOKENS FROM SOUTHERN STATES. Have nice traders from North Carolina and other southern states. I enjoy helping others to identify NC Maverick Tokens; all I ask is that you allow me to catalog new finds. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 tokenaddict@citcom.net 828-883-8028

ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW FIND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLASSIFIED AND/OR PAID ADS. Only you can make your club better. Send items in to your editor!

FOR SALE

FOR SALE OR TRADE: CHAMPION COMPRESS RECEIVING GANG TOKEN as described in this issue of CARTSNEWS. \$50. Or trade for uncommon North Carolina token(s). Lamar Bland. 919-383-6514, or blandl@elon.edu.

CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE FOR A NICE SELECTION OF TRADE TOKENS FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES. I have many tokens for sale and some better ones for trade. Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/sc/sctokens/> Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 chibbaro@mindspring.com

REMEMBER HICKORY MAY 19

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.